What is the main point? What do I want the people to know?

**Do I have the both the will and the courage to put into use the gifts God has placed in my life?**

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. 2nd Tim. 1:6-7 (TNIV)

Do not neglect the gift which is in you, that special inward endowment which was directly imparted to you by the Holy Spirit by prophetic utterance when the elders laid their hands upon you. 1st Tim. 4:14 (AMP)

**The picture Paul gives us...**
Timothy - called and gifted by God.
Two things were hindering…
Neglecting the development of these gifts and fear to exercise these gifts.

- God given abilities were lying dormant in his life.
- They were like a fire that has almost gone out.

Do you think there are neglected gifts in your life?
Are these gifts and abilities burning brightly?

Do we realize how we have been shaped and what gifts lie within our lives?

Paul reminded Timothy…(who are these people in your life?)
He pointed him to the influence of the previous two generations.
A destiny that was passed on from godly people in his past.

I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. 2nd Tim. 1:5 (NKJV)

You have been invested in by the previous generation.
There was sincere and genuine faith in Timothy.

You have gifts and abilities given by God.
They are recognized, coached and encouraged by godly leaders.
Something has been passed on to you!
Is it stuck in your fears and insecurities. What has put the fire out?
What has thrown water on your passions and pursuits?
Lack of time and investment needed to keep the fire burning brightly.
Life is too busy with other things.

**Stoke the fire!**
Great word picture! What is the process?


We begin to think about our lives, pray about what has been placed in our hearts, asking God to show us and lead us. This is like blowing on the embers.

**What is your fear?**
Fear of failure and humiliation. Fear of expectations.
Fear of rejection. Fear that we are misguided.

The Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. 2nd Timothy 1:7

Power to accomplish the task. Love as the greatest motivator.
Self-discipline to keep us moving forward.

Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well. 1st Timothy 1:18

What is behind Timothy’s fear and Paul’s exhortation?

**First observation...**
He was given a tough assignment.

For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church. Some of you have become arrogant, as if I were not coming to you. 1st Cor. 4:17-18

He was sent to Corinth to deal with the controversies there. This assignment did not go well. He failed in his attempt to bring reconciliation.
Timothy was caught in the middle of this tension. Timothy felt the disapproval of the church in Corinth. They wanted Paul, not this young upstart.

Is this one reason Timothy was hesitant to fan the flame?

**Second observation….
**Add to this that fact that Timothy may have been intimidated by the enthusiasm and rousing endorsement of Titus by Paul.

By all this we are encouraged. In addition to our own encouragement, we were especially delighted to see how happy Titus was, because his spirit has been refreshed by all of you. I had boasted to him about you, and you have not embarrassed me. But just as everything we said to you was true, so our boasting about you to Titus has proved to be true as well. And his affection for you is all the greater when he remembers that you were all obedient, receiving him with fear and trembling. I am glad I can have complete confidence in you. 2nd Corinthians 7:13-16

It would appear that what Timothy was unable to do, Titus had success in doing. The way they treated Titus was not the way they had treated Timothy.

So, here are two things that can put the fire out in our lives... A tough assignment that did not go well. We are intimidated by the ability of others.

**Third observation...**
His inexperience and youth were seen as great detriments.

Command and teach these things. Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you. Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers. 1st Timothy 4:11-16